

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) At a business process execution engine, a computer implemented method for dynamically managing business partners in a system that includes a business process application and without requiring the business process application to be modified or recompiled, the method comprising:

the business process execution engine accessing a compiled business process application that includes selection criteria for selecting business partners but that does not include business partner attributes, the selection criteria indicating attributes that a business partner is to include to match the selection criteria;

the business process execution engine accessing a separate list of business partner attributes for a plurality of business partners, each business partner including at least one attribute;

the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application to ~~automatically and without user intervention~~ select a first business partner from the separate list, the first business partner having with an attribute that matches the selection criteria ~~such that the first business partner is selected by the business process execution engine and not by a user;~~

subsequent to selecting the first business partner, updating an attribute of the first ~~second~~ business partner in the separate list such that the ~~to match the selection criteria subsequent to selecting the first business partner, wherein the attribute update is made without modifying the compiled business process application; [[and]]~~

subsequent to modifying the attribute and without recompiling the compiled business process application, the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application and the updated attribute in the separate list to ~~automatically and without user intervention~~ select the ~~second~~ first business partner; ~~and such that the second business partner is selected by the business process execution engine and not by the user.~~

upon selecting the first business partner, notifying the first business partner of the selection.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises identifying information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises selection information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises a digital certificate.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises custom business partner data.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises an identification of a preferred document format.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the document format comprises an extensible markup language schema.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising, while running the business process application, binding instances of a business partner variable to the business partners.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising adding an additional business partner to the plurality of business partners in the separate list without modifying the compiled business process application.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting a business partner from the plurality of business partners in the separate list without modifying the compiled business process application.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein the adding or deleting is performed by a business partner.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the update is provided by a business partner.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one attribute comprises price information.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing stored computer-executable instructions for causing a computer device to perform a method for dynamically managing business partners in a system that includes a business process application and without requiring the business process application to be modified or recompiled, the method comprising:

the business process execution engine accessing a compiled business process application that includes selection criteria for selecting business partners but that does not include business partner attributes, the selection criteria indicating attributes that a business partner is to include to match the selection criteria;

the business process execution engine accessing a separate list of business partner attributes for a plurality of business partners, each business partner including at least one attribute;

the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application to select a first business partner from the separate list, the first business partner having an attribute that matches the selection criteria;

subsequent to selecting the first business partner, updating an attribute of the first business partner in the separate list such that the attribute update is made without modifying the compiled business process application;

subsequent to modifying the attribute and without recompiling the compiled business process application, the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application and the updated attribute in the separate list to select the first business partner; and

upon selecting the first business partner, notifying the first business partner of the selection.

~~the method of claim 1.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented system for performing a business process, the system comprising:

a processor; and

memory storing computer-executable instructions which when executed by the processor perform a method for dynamically managing business partners in a system that includes a business process application and without requiring the business process application to be modified or recompiled, the method comprising:

the business process execution engine accessing a compiled business process application that includes selection criteria for selecting business partners but that does not include business partner attributes, the selection criteria indicating attributes that a business partner is to include to match the selection criteria;

the business process execution engine accessing a separate list of business partner attributes for a plurality of business partners, each business partner including at least one attribute;

the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application to select a first business partner from the separate list, the first business partner having an attribute that matches the selection criteria;

subsequent to selecting the first business partner, updating an attribute of the first business partner in the separate list such that the attribute update is made without modifying the compiled business process application;

subsequent to modifying the attribute and without recompiling the compiled business process application, the business process execution engine utilizing the selection criteria in the compiled business process application and the updated attribute in the separate list to select the first business partner; and

upon selecting the first business partner, notifying the first business partner of the selection.

~~a computer readable storage medium containing a compiled business process application that includes selection criteria for selecting business partners, the selection criteria indicating attributes that a business partner is to include to match the selection criteria;~~

~~a computer readable storage medium containing business partner attributes for a plurality of business partners, each business partner including at least one attribute; and~~

~~a business process execution engine that performs a method for dynamically managing business partners in the system without requiring the business process application to be modified or recompiled, the method comprising:~~

~~accessing the compiled business process application;~~

~~accessing the business partner attributes;~~

~~utilizing the selection criteria to automatically and without user intervention select a first business partner with an attribute that matches the selection criteria such that the first business partner is selected by the business process execution engine and not by the user;~~

~~subsequent to an update to the business partner attributes and subsequent to selecting the first business partner, wherein the update corresponds to an attribute of a second business partner, and the update is made without modifying the compiled business process application, utilizing the selection criteria and the updated attribute to automatically and without user intervention select the second business partner such that the second business partner is selected by the business process execution engine and not by the user.~~

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one attribute comprises contact information.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one attribute comprises price information.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, wherein the at least one attribute comprises an identification of a preferred document format.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the document format comprises an extensible markup language schema.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the compiled business process application is an executable file that is executed by the business process execution engine.